Reaching children at home or in school: new reports on SIEF studies

A SIEF-supported randomized control trial of an eight-week parenting program for poor families in Chile found large gains in children’s vocabularies and in social-emotional development three years after the program ended, in addition to improvements in the quality of children’s home environments and parents’ nurturing practices. Read the new working paper published by the research team.

SIEF-supported researchers have published two papers related to their ongoing evaluation of the impact of a government program in Cambodia that aimed to expand access to preschools by building new facilities and promoting the importance of early childhood education with parents. Building community preschools led to a seven percentage point (or approximately 10 percent) increase in preschool attendance and led households to switch their children out of informal and state-run preschools. In addition, the results from an earlier study of preschools in Cambodia, also financed by SIEF, were published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Human Resources.

Events

Improving “last-mile” public service delivery is a recurring challenge in developing countries. Can mobile phones provide a simple, cost-effective means for improving services delivery? In a seminar at the World Bank on February 14, the SIEF-supported research team discussed their at-scale evaluation of a phone-based monitoring system of a program that transferred nearly a billion dollars to 5.7 million farmers in India.

The monitoring program, which was reviewed in a recent Evidence to Policy note, was
highly cost-effective, costing 3.6 cents for each additional dollar delivered.

This evaluation is part of SIEF's new "nimble" evaluations portfolio.

Read the full paper; visit SIEF's seminars page to learn more about events.